



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
TAYLOR COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1999 TAXES**

April 28, 2000

**EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
TAYLOR COUNTY
JOHN E. SHIPP, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT – 1999 TAXES
APRIL 28, 2000

Financial Condition of the Entity:

- 1) Our audit revealed the following refund due to the Sheriff:

Common School \$294.00

- 2) The following transactions should occur in order to settle the Sheriff's 1999 tax account:

Transfer From Fee Account To Tax Account	\$ 11.24
Refund From The Tax Account	
Western Kentucky Gas For Overpayment of Franchise Tax	305.87

Once the above transactions are completed, the balance in the 1999 tax account will be \$0.

Best Practice Comment:

The Sheriff and his bookkeeper have followed excellent accounting and recordkeeping procedures.

Deposits:

As of April 28, 2000, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with securities held by the county official's agent in the county official's name. The Sheriff had a written collateral security agreement, which met all legal requirements.

CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1999 TAXES	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT	4
REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.....	9



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Mike Haydon, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Eddie Rogers, Taylor County Judge/Executive
Honorable John E. Shipp, Taylor County Sheriff
Members of the Taylor County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Taylor County Sheriff's Settlement - 1999 Taxes as of April 28, 2000. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Taylor County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted Government Auditing Standards and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The Sheriff prepares his financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Taylor County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of April 28, 2000, in conformity with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated June 23, 2000, on our consideration of the Sheriff's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Mike Haydon, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Eddie Rogers, Taylor County Judge/Executive
Honorable John E. Shipp, Taylor County Sheriff
Members of the Taylor County Fiscal Court

- We would like to commend Taylor County Sheriff John E. Shipp and bookkeeper Martha Cox for excellent accounting and recordkeeping procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 23, 2000

TAYLOR COUNTY
JOHN E. SHIPP, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1999 TAXES

April 28, 2000

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 448,288	\$ 747,146	\$ 1,453,931	\$ 789,945
Tangible Personal Property	58,989	102,208	109,857	231,805
Intangible Personal Property				73,141
Fire Protection	1,090			
Franchise Corporation	50,365	86,501	141,803	
Limestone	4	7	22	8
Increased Through Erroneous Assessments	771	1,295	2,982	1,184
Penalties	3,344	5,574	11,731	6,091
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(11)	(3)	(4)	(4)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	\$ 562,840	\$ 942,728	\$ 1,720,322	\$ 1,102,170
<u>Credits</u>				
Discounts	\$ 6,796	\$ 11,366	\$ 20,128	\$ 15,453
Exonerations	3,063	5,118	11,222	5,485
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	3,522	5,858	11,883	6,193
Tangible Personal Property	175	303	240	575
Intangible Personal Property				662
Uncollected Franchise Corporation	31	52	151	
Total Credits	\$ 13,587	\$ 22,697	\$ 43,624	\$ 28,368
Net Tax Yield	\$ 549,253	\$ 920,031	\$ 1,676,698	\$ 1,073,802
Less: Commissions *	23,631	39,101	67,068	45,924
Net Taxes Due	\$ 525,622	\$ 880,930	\$ 1,609,630	\$ 1,027,878
Taxes Paid	525,427	880,605	1,609,080	1,027,515
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	195	325	844	363
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Fieldwork	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (294)	\$ 0

* Commissions:

10% on	\$	10,000
4.25% on	\$	2,533,086
4% on	\$	1,676,698

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

TAYLOR COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 28, 2000

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of April 28, 2000, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

TAYLOR COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 28, 2000
(Continued)

Note 3. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 1999. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2000. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 1, 1999 through April 28, 2000.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Taylor County Sheriff earned \$14,000 as interest income on 1999 taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Honorable Eddie Rogers, Taylor County Judge/Executive
Honorable John E. Shipp, Taylor County Sheriff
Members of the Taylor County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Taylor County Sheriff's Settlement - 1999 Taxes as of April 28, 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated June 23, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Taylor County Sheriff's Settlement - 1999 Taxes as of April 28, 2000 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Taylor County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Honorable Eddie Rogers, Taylor County Judge/Executive
Honorable John E. Shipp, Taylor County Sheriff
Members of the Taylor County Fiscal Court
Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 23, 2000

